



Saguaro National Park News Release

14-52

For Immediate Release

July 31, 2014 12pm

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DEER HEAD FIRE SMOKE PLUME VISIBLE FROM MESCAL ROAD AND BENSON

Tucson, AZ – Wednesday afternoon, the smoke plume from the lightning-ignited Deer Head Fire, burning in the Saguaro Wilderness of Saguaro National Park, was very visible from the south along Interstate 10. The fire was burning in pockets of pine on the southeast and southwest corners of the fire, which increased the overall size to 754 acres of land burned. Firefighters conducted a burnout of approximately seven additional acres on the southern perimeter.

Light rainfall occurred over the fire, last night. Firefighters will continue to monitor the fire's perimeter, manage the burned out section to minimize erosion from future rainfall, and prevent the fire from moving west towards Manning Camp. Smoke columns again might be observed, depending upon weather and humidity levels over the fire area. Some fire growth will occur today, although increasing monsoonal moisture is forecast from now into the weekend, decreasing fire activity.

The Deer Head Fire has provided positive environmental benefits to date, including the burning of leaves, downed logs, and over-grown or dead brush lying on the forest floor, which is reducing the risk of future catastrophic fires while also benefitting area wildlife.

Rincon Mountain District backcountry closures will remain in effect for the duration of the fire to ensure public safety.

Normal morning temperature inversion may cause some smoke to settle along the San Pedro Valley and eastern Tucson but should clear by mid-morning.

Additional information related to the Deer Head Fire is available at:

<http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/3999/>, <http://Facebook.com/SaguaroNationalPark> or call the Fire Information Hotline at (520) 733-5150.